

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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HEARING SCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN
MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE DIANA R. HALL

On July 26, 2005, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Diana R. Hall, a judge of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court. The hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Second District Court of Appeal (Division Six) at 200 East Santa Clara Street in Ventura, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern Commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court: Justice Dennis A. Cornell, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District; Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District; and Judge Suzanne N. Kingsbury, Superior Court of El Dorado County.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Andrew Blum, Esq. has been designated as examiner. Judge Hall is represented by attorney Edith R. Matthai of Robie & Matthai in Los Angeles, California.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the Commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the Commission. If the Commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the Commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is Marshall B. Grossman, Esq. of Los Angeles, California.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the Commission's Web page at www.cjp.ca.gov.